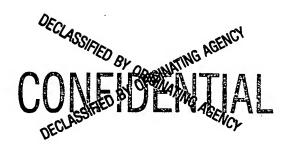**CONFIDENTIAL**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(*U*)

Please cancel without prejudice claim 5 and amend claim 1 as follows.

(*C1*)

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors and jamming, the ATM cells each including a header and payload, the method including the step of interleaving the ATM cell header into an error correction transmission frame wherein empty/idle ATM cells are eliminated/used to substantially match input and output rates of an ATM link.

(*C*)

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein error correction is applied separately to the payload and header prior to interleaving them within a transmission frame.

(*C*)

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the error correction corresponds to Reed Solomon forward error correction.

(*C*)

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the Reed Solomon encoding is applied to the header and payload separately following which the encoded header is interleaved with the encoded payload.

(*U*)

5-6. (Cancelled)

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B1
(c) Cancel'd

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to enhance the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors and jamming operation in accordance with the method of claim 1.